

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
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Congressman Tom Feeney

Visit Congressman Feeney's "Online Office"  
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- ✓ Get online help with federal agencies, education loans, immigration issues, federal grants, etc.
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2005

Year In Review from

Congressman

Tom Feeney



Breaking News

Important update on the sales tax deduction  
for Floridians

Check Inside for  
Information on:

Key Issue Updates

Reports from around the  
24th District

Accountability in  
Government Spending

NASA Update



Sen. McCain and Congressman Feeney  
discuss the military simulation technology  
being developed in Central Florida with Col.  
David Votipka and Col. Walt Augustin.

CONGRESSMAN TOM FEENEY  
24th District, Florida

December 2005

Tax relief legislation approved by the House of Representatives in December included a one year extension of the federal tax deduction for state sales tax payment. The deduction, scheduled to expire at the end of 2005, will remain available if the full Congress approves this legislation in 2006.

In 2004, I led efforts to end a nearly two decade old inequity in the tax code by allowing Florida taxpayers to deduct state sales tax payments as an itemized deduction. Previously residents of states with state income taxes could deduct these payments, but Floridians and residents from states that use a sales tax instead of an income tax were prevented from utilizing this tax savings.

The provision allows taxpayers who itemize their taxes to deduct the amount of sales tax they have paid as demonstrated by receipts or deduct a standard sales tax deduction based on their income level plus sales tax paid on "big ticket" items such as automobiles, boats, aircraft, and home building materials.

Ending this inequity in the tax code has been a priority of mine since I took office. I will work to see the extension of the deduction is incorporated in the final version of tax cut legislation considered in early 2006, and as an original cosponsor of the H.R. 519, the Permanent Sales Tax Deduction Act, I am determined to see this deduction made permanent.



# Annual Report

Serving you in Central Florida and Washington

## Key Issue Updates

### Bringing accountability to government and renewing our commitment to taxpayers

- ✓ **Border Security and Immigration Enforcement** — The House approved legislation in December to help prevent illegal aliens from crossing the border, holding lawbreakers accountable for their actions, and equipping authorities to enforce the law. Congress is expected to consider a final version of this legislation in 2006.
- ✓ **Homeland Security** — The reauthorization of key provisions of the PATRIOT Act will provide law enforcement with the necessary tools to fight terrorism at home. Additionally, the REAL ID Act improved minimum standards for government issued identification and closed loopholes to prevent terrorists and illegal aliens from obtaining drivers licenses or other forms of identification.
- ✓ **Lawsuit Abuse Reform** — Congress approved the Class Action Fairness Act and addressed one of the most serious forms of lawsuit abuse by moving large class action cases into federal court and preventing trial lawyers from harassing local businesses by shopping for friendly judges.
- ✓ **Property Rights Legislation** — The House approved legislation to protect private property rights by prohibiting the federal government from seizing property through eminent domain for economic development purposes and restricting state and local government's ability to do so.

## Around the 24th District

### Working directly with you

- ✓ **Listening to You** — In 2005, Congressman Feeney held town hall meetings throughout the 24th District and plans to continue his commitment to hearing your ideas by holding town hall meetings around the district in 2006.
- ✓ **Honoring a Local Hero** — In August, Congress approved legislation introduced by Congressman Feeney to name the Altamonte Springs Post Office for Arthur Stacey Mastrapa, an Army Reservist and USPS Letter Carrier, killed while serving in Iraq.
- ✓ **Encouraging Creativity** — This fall over 125 student artists from schools throughout the 24th District participated in the annual art contest organized by Congressman Feeney. The winning work is currently on display in the United States Capitol.
- ✓ **Promoting Central Florida's Military Technology** — Congressman Feeney worked with local military and civilian leaders to educate key policy makers, including Senator John McCain, about Central Florida's modeling, simulation, and training industry. He also helped ensure that key operations, like the Army's PEO-STRI and the Navy's NAVAIR TSD, were unaffected by this year's series of military base closures.
- ✓ **District Beach Walk** — Following the success of his first district beach walk, Congressman Feeney plans to walk the length of the 75 mile coastline of the district in 2006 and meet with constituents and community leaders along the way.



Congressman Feeney speaks to parents and students at the annual Congressional Art Contest.

## Accountability in Government Spending

*Because it's not how much we spend that matters, it's how we spend it*

In 2005, Congressman Feeney continued his efforts to protect your family's budget by fighting against government waste and ensuring Congress makes smart decisions with your tax dollars. Since becoming a member of Congress, he has voted against trillions of dollars in wasteful spending, pork projects, and other irresponsible legislation, and supported proposals to restore accountability to government.

Because of his consistent voting record and effectiveness in the effort to cut wasteful spending, Congressman Feeney was one of only two members of Congress recognized as a "Taxpayer Super Hero" by Citizens Against Government Waste. Additionally, he has received an "A" rating from the National Taxpayer's Union and was recognized as a "Hero of the Taxpayer" by Americans for Tax Reform.



Congressman Feeney announces a plan to find cost savings in wasteful government spending to help pay for recovery from Hurricane Katrina.

## NASA Update

### Advancing the Vision for Exploration



Congressman Feeney is briefed on the operations of the Shuttle simulator by Astronaut Andrew Feustel.

Congressman Feeney understands the necessity of maintaining America's preeminence as the world's space power. He strongly supports America's Vision for Space Exploration under which we will return the Space Shuttle to regular flight,

complete the International Space Station, and pursue an ambitious agenda for exploration of the Moon, Mars, and beyond. In 2005, Congress endorsed this Vision and fully funded NASA's 2006 budget request.

The Space Coast has always played a critical role in America's journey into space. Congressman Feeney is committed to continuing that rich heritage.

## Please take a moment to answer a few questions.

### I want to know your views on these issues:

#### 1. Tell us what issues are most important to you.

Please check any that apply.

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crime                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Homeland Security        | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Security Reform |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deficit                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Immigration              | <input type="checkbox"/> Taxes                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education                | <input type="checkbox"/> Judicial Activism        | <input type="checkbox"/> Values Issues          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Frivolous Lawsuit Reform | <input type="checkbox"/> NASA & Space Exploration | <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans               |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> War on Terrorism       |

#### 2. Would you be interested in receiving e-mail updates on current issues in Congress? ☐ Yes ☐ No

email: \_\_\_\_\_

Check one: ☐ Mr. ☐ Ms. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Mr. & Mrs.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_